

In the claims:

1-40. (Canceled)

41. (Previously presented) A method of operating a vehicle-mounted surveillance system including a camera and vehicle-mounted recording device that creates video recordings having a start time and a stop time, comprising:

capturing a stream of real time video of an area of surveillance using the camera;

processing the real time live video stream by imposing a surveillance system-generated delay of a pre-set time interval on the live video stream to generate a time-delayed video stream, wherein the delay that is generated is in addition to any delays caused by latency and other time-delays inherent in electronic devices that process video streams for a purpose other than imposing a delay; and

activating the recording device, upon an occurrence of an event at a reference time, to record the time-delayed video stream so that a video recording is created of the surveillance area and the start time of the video recording precedes the reference time by the pre-set time interval.

42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the pre-set time interval is user-adjustable.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the pre-set time interval is greater than about 5 seconds.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 wherein the pre-set time interval is between about 5 to 10 seconds.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 41 further comprising receiving a user-defined value for the pre-set time interval.

46. (Previously presented) A method of recording an event witnessed by an officer using a vehicle-mounted surveillance system that includes a camera and vehicle-mounted recording device, comprising:

capturing a continuous stream of real time video of an area of surveillance using the camera;

delaying the real time video stream by a system-generated pre-set time interval to create a time delayed video stream, wherein the system-generated pre-set time delay is equal to or greater than a reaction time required by the officer to initiate recording after witnessing the event; and

in response to an action performed by the officer after witnessing the event, recording the time delayed video stream onto a storage medium using the recording device.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 further comprising receiving a user-defined value for the system-generated pre-set time delay.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the system-generated pre-set time delay is greater than about 5 seconds.

49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the system-generated pre-set time delay is between about 5 and 10 seconds.

50. (Previously presented) A video recorder adapted for use in a vehicle-mounted surveillance system, comprising:

an input interface for receiving a real time video stream from a video source;

a processor to process data representative of the received real time video stream and for writing the data to storage and reading the data from storage so as to create a time delayed version of the real time video stream that is delayed by a processor-generated pre-set time interval that is greater than about 5 seconds;

a memory coupled to the processor to temporarily store the processed data for the processor-generated pre-set time interval; and

a recording device for recording video and audio onto a storage medium, the recording device being coupled to the processor for receiving the time delayed version of the real time video stream.

51. (Previously presented) The video recorder of claim 50 wherein the processor-generated pre-set time interval is between about 5 and 10 seconds.

52. (Previously presented) The video recorder of claim 50 further comprising a user interface for selecting the processor-generated pre-set time interval.